

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4 as follows:

However, there may be situations where the AS does not know whether it should start originating or terminating services when it receives an incoming request message, e.g. an SIP INVITE message, or a serving CSCF (S-CSCF) does not know whether the incoming request message starts an originating or terminating session/transaction. Moreover, other information may be needed for load balancing within the network. Furthermore, for load sharing purposes in a connection processing server (CPS), especially in the S-CSCF and an interrogating CSCF (I-CSCF), it is important to provide a fast and easy algorithm to discover whether a received SIP request is the first in a SIP session or to which SIP session a received request or response belongs to. Currently, SIP does not provide such an efficient means. In order to identify a SIP dialog, i.e. call leg, identified by a combination of call identification, source and destination, a network element or UE has to compare the respective header fields of each SIP message and then to determine whether the call leg already exists. This implies heavy ~~string~~string comparisons and data base queries. A network element which maintains a high number of parallel call legs needs a lot of resources. Additionally, in case of a failure in a network element, information is required about existing sessions.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 13 as follows:

Regarding the arrangement and structure of the subfields 121 to 12n in the user part120, three options may be used. According to the first option, the user part 120 may be arranged as a single field, which contains the subfields 121 to 12n. This

single field is then ~~passed~~parsed and divided into the subfields 121 to 12n, when needed. This provides the advantage that no standardization is needed if the field is created and utilized inside the same network.